

MTA-1030  
4 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- November 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

November drew to a close with a flurry of activity surrounding the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) to be established in the Sinai region next April and the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel.

On the 30th, Jerusalem radio reported that the Cabinet had approved a proposed U.S.-Israel joint statement on the nature of the MFO, saying that it will be established on the basis of the Camp David accords and the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. Israel had threatened to veto the participation of four European countries in the MFO because of EEC declarations about the inclusion of Palestinians in the peace process. By the end of the month, however, it was clear that U.S. mediation had made it possible for Israel to agree to EEC participation.

Also on 30 November, weeks of intense debate on the structure and nature of U.S.-Israel cooperation reached a high point when Defense Minister Sharon and Secretary of Defense Weinberger signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. The signing prompted criticism from a variety of Knesset members that the memorandum had not been properly vetted by the Knesset and contained clauses harmful to Israel.

Southern Lebanon was back in the spotlight in November. On the 6th, the Hebrew section monitored an ITIM News Agency report saying that Maj Sa'd Haddad, commander of the militia in southern Lebanon, had resigned. Later that day, Jerusalem Radio reported that Israeli "elements" were attempting to convince Haddad to change his mind. Haddad had second thoughts about his resignation and on 8 November the bureau monitored a speech in English broadcast by Lebanon's Voice of Hope in which Haddad said that at the request of "all the citizens of Free Lebanon" and for "the benefit of all Lebanon" he had decided to continue with his "mission." Because the situation in southern Lebanon was unclear, on 9 November the bureau began ad hoc coverage of five Voice of Hope English newscasts in addition to the two on regular coverage. The Turkish section handled the processing.

The drama in southern Lebanon continued when on the 13th Jerusalem radio quoted Haddad as saying that the cease-fire in Lebanon "no longer exists" after three of his soldiers were killed when a vehicle in which they were traveling struck a mine "laid by a terrorist squad" that had crossed the Litani River into the area controlled by Haddad's militia. The bureau remained alert for the possibility of renewed hostilities and on the 15th, Jerusalem radio said Israeli Defense Minister Sharon had told U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis that "coming events would surprise" the envoy. However, the situation in Lebanon was calmed through diplomacy. Jerusalem radio reported on the 17th that meetings had been held between Gen Emmanuiel Erskine, UN Secretary General Waldheim's representative, and Yequti'el Adam, the Israeli Deputy Chief of Staff, and between Gen William Callaghan, the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon commander, and Ambassador Lewis in efforts to resolve matters.

Other events that occupied the Hebrew section during the month included reports from a variety of Israeli and foreign sources that the Israelis were conducting reconnaissance flights over northern Saudi Arabia (confirmed a few days later by Israeli Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan), Israeli reaction--mostly negative--to an eight-point peace plan advanced by Saudi Arabia's Prince Fahd which implied Arab recognition of the State of Israel, the Israeli-Egyptian autonomy talks on the 11th and 12th, and the opening of the winter session of the Knesset on 2 November.

On the 24th, the Turkish section monitored a report from Ankara Radio quoting Pakistani President Ziaul Haq as saying that "Pakistan can make" an atom bomb. The statement was given to Turkish reporters during a visit by Turkish head of state Kenan Evren to Pakistan. The somewhat cryptic remark was not elaborated on in later Ankara casts or by the ANATOLIA News Agency but Jerusalem radio, in reporting on Haq's remarks, added that Pakistan reportedly "intends" to make nuclear bombs.

B. Communications

Upgrading of the communications satellite equipment on the embassy roof during the month resulted in some temporary problems for the bureau's communicators. While the equipment was being installed the bureau's traffic was filed via an HF radioteletype link to Athens, with varying degrees of reliability.

C. Lateral Services

In response to a request from the ambassador's office, the bureau translated the text of a lengthy television interview with Ya'el Dayan, daughter of the late Moshe Dayan. Ambassador and Mrs. Lewis were close friends of the Dayan family and wanted to have a transcript of the interview for personal reasons.

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II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Buildings and Grounds

New cabinets with a drop-in gas range were installed in the bureau kitchen during the month. A microwave oven, which is currently under requisition from Headquarters, will complete the modest renovation project.

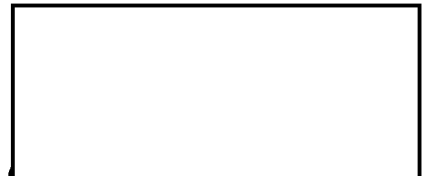
Bureau took possession of a new Ford Cortina 1.6L station wagon on 5 November.

III. VISITS

A. Bureau Cruising Officer [ ] conducted a TDY reception survey in Swaziland from 4-26 November. STAT

B. Turkish section chief [ ] and Hebrew monitor [ ] spent 1 day TDY at London Bureau on 9 November. STAT

C. Auditor [ ] audited the bureau on 13 and 14 November. STAT  
His draft report contains no recommendations.



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Attachments: A. Production Report  
B. Communications Report